

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus for driving a plasma display panel, which has a panel capacitor, the apparatus comprising:

a first switch and a second switch being coupled in series between a first power source for supplying a first voltage and a first terminal of the panel capacitor;

a third switch and a fourth switch being coupled in series between the first terminal of the panel capacitor and a second power source for supplying a second voltage;

a first capacitor coupled between a common contact between the first switch and the second switch and a common contact between the third switch and the fourth switch; and

a fifth switch coupled between the first capacitor and a third power source supplying a third voltage.

2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the fifth switch is turned on so that the first capacitor is charged to a difference between the first voltage and the third voltage.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the third voltage is substantially a middle voltage between the first voltage and the second voltage.

4. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
at least one inductor coupled to the first terminal of the panel capacitor; and
a sixth switch and a seventh switch being coupled in parallel between the inductor and the third power source.

5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the first switch, the second switch, the third switch and the fourth switch each have a body diode.

6. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:
a sixth switch and a seventh switch being coupled in series between the first power source and a second terminal of the panel capacitor;

an eighth switch and a ninth switch being coupled in series between the second terminal of the panel capacitor and the second power source;

a second capacitor coupled between a common contact between the sixth switch and the seventh switch and a common contact between the eighth switch and the ninth switch; and

a tenth switch coupled between the second capacitor and the third power source.

7. An apparatus for driving a plasma display panel, which has a panel capacitor, the apparatus comprising:

a first switch and a second switch being coupled in series between a first power source supplying a first voltage and a first terminal of the panel capacitor;

a third switch and a fourth switch being coupled in series between the first terminal of the panel capacitor and a second power source supplying a second voltage;

a first signal line coupled to a common contact between the first switch and the second switch; and

a second signal line coupled to a common contact between the third switch and the fourth switch,

wherein a voltage between the first signal line and the second signal line is a third voltage, and the first voltage and the second voltage are alternately applied to the first terminal of the panel capacitor.

8. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the third voltage is substantially a middle voltage between the first voltage and the second voltage.

9. The apparatus of claim 7, further comprising a capacitor coupled between the first signal line and the second signal line and charged to the third voltage.

10. The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising a fifth switch coupled between a third power source supplying a voltage substantially corresponding to a summation of the second voltage and the third voltage, the fifth switch being turned on thereby charging the capacitor to the third voltage in the on state of the fourth switch.

11. The apparatus of claim 7, further comprising a power recovery section including at least one inductor coupled to the first terminal of the panel capacitor, the power recovery section changing a terminal voltage of the panel capacitor using a resonance generated between the inductor and the panel capacitor.

12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the power recovery section further includes a fifth switch and a sixth switch being coupled in parallel between the inductor and a third power source supplying a middle voltage substantially corresponding to a difference of the first voltage and the second voltage.

13. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the first switch, the second switch, the third switch and the fourth switch each have a body diode.

14. The apparatus of claim 7, further comprising:
a fifth switch and a sixth switch being coupled in series between the first power source and a second terminal of the panel capacitor;
a seventh switch and an eighth switch being coupled in series between the second terminal of the panel capacitor and the second power source;
a third signal line coupled to a common contact between the fifth switch and the sixth switch; and
a fourth signal line coupled to a common contact between the seventh switch and the eighth switch,
wherein a voltage between the third signal line and the fourth signal line is the third voltage, and the second voltage is applied to the second terminal of the panel capacitor while the first voltage is applied to the first terminal of the panel capacitor, and the first voltage is applied to the second terminal of the panel capacitor while the second voltage is applied to the first terminal of the panel capacitor.

15. A method for driving a plasma display panel, in which the plasma display panel is driven by alternately applying a first voltage and a second voltage through a first

signal line and a second signal line coupled to a first terminal of a panel capacitor, the method comprising:

(a) applying a third voltage between a common contact between a first switch and a second switch formed on the first signal line and a common contact between a third switch and a fourth switch formed on the second signal line, while the first voltage is applied to the first terminal of the panel capacitor by turning on the first switch and the second switch; and

(b) applying the third voltage between the common contact between the first switch and the second switch and the common contact between the third switch and the fourth switch, while the second voltage is applied to the first terminal of the panel capacitor by turning on the third switch and the fourth switch.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein applying the third voltage between the common contact between the first switch and the second switch and the common contact between the third switch and the fourth switch, while the second voltage is applied to the first terminal of the panel capacitor by turning on the third switch and the fourth switch, includes charging the third voltage to a capacitor coupled between the contact of the first switch, the contact of the second switch, the contact of the third switch and the contact of the fourth switch.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein:

applying a third voltage between a common contact between a first switch and a second switch formed on the first signal line and a common contact between a third switch and a fourth switch formed on the second signal line, while the first voltage is applied to the first terminal of the panel capacitor by turning on the first switch and the second switch, further includes raising the voltage of the first terminal of the panel capacitor to the first voltage using a first resonance generated between an inductor coupled to the first terminal of the panel capacitor and the panel capacitor, before the first voltage is applied to the first terminal of the panel capacitor, and

applying the third voltage between the common contact between the first switch and the second switch and the common contact between the third switch and the fourth

switch, while the second voltage is applied to the first terminal of the panel capacitor by turning on the third switch and the fourth switch, further includes dropping the voltage of the first terminal of the panel capacitor to the second voltage using a second resonance generated between the inductor and the panel capacitor, before the second voltage is applied to the panel capacitor.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein:

applying a third voltage between a common contact between a first switch and a second switch formed on the first signal line and a common contact between a third switch and a fourth switch formed on the second signal line, while the first voltage is applied to the first terminal of the panel capacitor by turning on the first switch and the second switch, further includes injecting current in the inductor through a path of a power source supplying the third voltage, the inductor, and the second signal line, before the first resonance is generated, and

applying the third voltage between the common contact between the first switch and the second switch and the common contact between the third switch and the fourth switch, while the second voltage is applied to the first terminal of the panel capacitor by turning on the third switch and the fourth switch, further includes injecting current in the inductor through a path of the first signal line, the inductor, and the power source, before the second resonance is generated.